

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
4201 WILSON BOULEVARD
ARLINGTON, VA 22230

Mr. Ben Chatterson
Department of Energy
19901 Germantown Road
Room C-220, CR-423
Germantown, MD 20874

Dear Mr. Chatterson:

We are requesting your assistance in completing this year's Survey of Federal Science and Engineering (S&E) Support to Universities, Colleges, and Nonprofit Institutions (Federal support survey). Prior to the FY 1998 survey cycle, the National Science Foundation (NSF) implemented a survey data collection system available through the World Wide Web on the Internet. Attached to this letter you will find an informational brochure that describes the Web data collection system (FSSWEB). To submit your agency's data over the Web, go to <http://www.qrc.com/fssweb>. Your Web user ID is «FSUserID» and the password is «FSPassword».

As you know, this survey is the source for the National Science Foundation's annual publication *Federal Science and Engineering Support to Universities, Colleges, and Nonprofit Institutions*. Your response is due by **May 15, 2001**. If, however, your current data system does not enable you to respond by that date, please notify us as soon as possible. We will review your survey response in conjunction with a review of data from the companion Survey of Federal Funds for Research and Development. We will be contacting you to assist us in this effort.

NSF requests that each DOE program office provide, with its initial Federal support survey submission, a list of brief narrative explanations for any academic or nonprofit institution for which FY 2000 dollar totals differ (either more than or less than) by \$5 million or more from FY 1999 dollar totals for that same institution. Sample phrases that are useful as "brief narrative explanations" are:

- Congressional add-on (Center for Applied Optics),
- not a congressional add-on: new project for Stanford Synchrotron Radiation Lab,
- new research contract on solvent extraction,
- increased activities on CO₂ flood and control verification, and
- closeout of research grant.

It is important to denote whether a project is a Congressional add-on. The narrative description can be applied for one or more types of activities (R&D, general support for S&E, R&D plant, etc.) or at the total S&E obligation level (all activities combined for that institution). For example, if a large dollar change at MIT was traceable to R&D programs (with no other activity showing a large enough

difference), the description would address R&D as the activity type. Please, however, provide a brief explanation for any FY 2000 **R&D plant** dollar difference of \$5 million or more at an institution regardless of that institution's FY 1999 R&D plant dollar total, even if the amounts for each year are equal. This special R&D plant request is important because NSF continually attempts to analyze R&D plant totals for those Federal agencies, such as DOE, that provide a significant share of Federal government-wide R&D plant obligations, especially to academic institutions.

The National Science Foundation Act of 1950, as amended, provides the mandate for this interagency reporting system. The academic sector produces most of the Nation's scientists and engineers and performs about one-half of all federally sponsored basic research. The characteristics and distribution of Federal academic and/or nonprofit funds are of interest to science and technology policy officials at all levels of government, to academic administrators, and to industry and nonprofit personnel. The Federal support survey is the only source of detailed data on Federal S&E obligations to individual universities, colleges, and nonprofit organizations and therefore attracts a wide audience. Specific users include the *Chronicle of Higher Education* and EPSCoR (Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research). EPSCoR was established in 1979 to broaden the geographic distribution of research opportunities. In conjunction with state and industry leaders' efforts, EPSCoR assists States that have historically received little Federal R&D funding, and that have demonstrated a commitment to develop their research bases and S&E research and education programs at their universities and colleges to compete more successfully for such funding.

Please note that you will not receive hard copies of the *Instructions and Specifications for Reporting to the Annual Survey of Federal Science and Engineering Support to Universities, Colleges, and Nonprofit Institutions*, or the *Code Book for Compatible Statistical Reporting of Federal Science and Engineering Support to Universities, Colleges, and Nonprofit Institutions*. These documents are available through FSSWEB.

Each year the number of nonprofit institutions receiving Federal support continues to grow; please pay particular attention to your agency's obligations to each of these institutions listed in the *Code Book*. Also, please report any nonprofit institution that received R&D and/or R&D plant obligations from your agency, **regardless of amount**, even if it is not listed in the *Code Book*. See the FSSWEB's help documentation for reporting obligations to institutions not listed in the *Code Book*.


Also refer to FSSWEB's help documentation to review a list of the most frequently encountered problems identified in recent agency submissions. Your attention to these items will help reduce the editing time, resulting in earlier release of the data.

Please call Keri Fullmer of QRC Division of Macro International Inc. on (301) 657-3077, ext. 179, if you are unable to provide your response on FSSWEB. You may also call Michael Rossi on (301) 657-3077, ext. 178, if you need additional help. Ms. Fullmer and Mr. Rossi can also be reached through the Internet at kfullmer@qrc.com or mrossi@qrc.com.

Cost and person-hour estimates are included in the General Services Administration clearance requests for this survey. It would be very helpful if your agency could furnish NSF with an estimate of the operational costs incurred and the person-hours expended in the preparation of your annual submission. Please furnish these estimates on FSSWEB once you have submitted your data to NSF.

We greatly appreciate your assistance in our ongoing survey activities and we look forward to your continued cooperation and support in this year's data collection effort. If you have any questions regarding the reporting requirements, please do not hesitate to contact me at (703) 292-7783 or through the Internet at rbenno@nsf.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard Bennof". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'R' and 'B'.

Richard Bennof
Science Resources Analyst
Research and Development Statistics Program
Division of Science Resources Studies

Enclosures